

IN THE CLAIMS

1-61. (Cancelled)

62. (new) A method for handling of an endless belt for an electrophotographic printer or copier wherein the endless belt is to be borne with aid of a first, a second, and a third cylindrical body during mounting of the belt into said printer or copier, comprising the steps of:

inserting the first cylindrical body through a loop of the endless belt;

arranging the second cylindrical body outside of the loop of the endless belt and parallel to the first cylindrical body;

winding the endless belt around the first and second cylindrical bodies to form a wound unit and inserting the third cylindrical body through the loop at a free end of the endless belt before or during the winding of the first and the second cylindrical bodies with the endless belt;

placing the three cylindrical bodies with the wound unit in a container with said wound unit resting on a support surface structure in the container; and

extracting the endless belt from the container such that as the third cylindrical body is being raised upwardly from the container said wound unit unwinds while it is resting on, being supported by, and slides along said support surface structure.

63. (new) The method of claim 62 wherein said support surface structure comprises first and second spaced apart support surfaces, said first and second cylindrical bodies have respective first and second opposite ends, and the first ends of the first and second cylindrical bodies resting on and sliding along the first support surface during said unwinding of the wound unit and the second ends of the first and second cylindrical bodies resting on and sliding along the second support surface during said unwinding of the wound unit.

64. (new) The method of claim 63 wherein each of said first and second support surfaces are continuous without protrusions so that as said wound unit is unwinding, said wound unit slides along said support surfaces during said unwinding.

65. (new) The method of claim 62 wherein said support surface structure comprises first and second support surfaces each of which are continuously curved, and opposite ends of said first, second and third cylindrical bodies extending beyond the endless belt respectively being in contact with said first and second curved surfaces when the wound unit and said third cylindrical body are positioned within said container.

66. (new) The method according to claim 63 wherein the first and second support surfaces are round and have a removal opening above a rounded portion where said third cylindrical body is extracted upwardly as said wound unit begins to unwind.

67. (new) The method according to claim 62 wherein the container has first and second flaps, and wherein the first flap has a web which, when the first flap is closed onto the container, is inserted between ends of said first and third bodies.

68. (new) The method of claim 67 wherein the second flap folds over the first flap having the web when the first flap is closed.

69. (new) The method of claim 62 wherein when placed in said container, said first and third bodies lie above said second body, and for removal, the first, second, and third bodies are rotated so that the third body is beneath an opening and then the third body is extracted upwardly while the wound unit formed of said first and second bodies unwinds on said support surface structure.

70. (new) A container system for handling an endless belt, comprising:
a container;

in said container an endless belt with first and third cylindrical bodies inserted in the belt and a second cylindrical body outside of the belt, and said first and second bodies having the belt wound there-around to form a wound unit; and

said container having a support surface structure supporting said wound unit, said support surface structure being shaped such that when the third cylindrical body is pulled upwardly during removal from said container, said wound unit rests on, is supported by, and slides along said support structure surface during unwinding of said wound unit.